



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE

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George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen
Homeland Security Director

- The Illinois Aviation Conference, Inc. held a two-day airport security conference in November focusing on security as it pertains to airport operators and airport-based business at general aviation airports. Draft recommendations, procedures, and implementation strategies were identified for incorporation into airport operator planning. Airports were grouped in four categories and short, middle and long-term solutions were identified. Security procedures were adopted based on the yellow, orange, and red levels of the Homeland Security Advisory System. The Illinois Aviation Conference, Inc. includes the Illinois Public Airports Association, Illinois Aviation Trades Association, and Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics.
- The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) met with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to discuss a pharmaceutical stockpile distribution plan. IDOT and IDPH are entering into a joint venture, which will ensure rapid transportation distribution of the supplies that will be required in case of a bio-terrorism incident in the state.
- The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) will meet with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to discuss conducting of radiological emergency medical drills under the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents (IPRA).
- The IDNS will conclude scheduled training commitments for 2002 in early December and reassess the scope of outreach programs for 2003. The level of training activities for local governments, hospitals, EMS personnel, and other first responder groups over the past 12 months has been the highest in department history.
- For the last several weeks, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has undertaken an aggressive training program to teach doctors, nurses and pharmacists

across the state how to give the smallpox vaccine. It is the goal of IDPH to develop a cadre of approximately 1,000 healthcare professionals on the use of the bifurcated vaccinating needle.

- The Illinois - National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS) time line for deployment of the Salmonella module has been delayed until January 1, 2003. This date is considered a conservative one that may be adjusted to December 1 if necessary. The new time line is as follows: Salmonella pilot (January 1-15), revision period (January 16-31), all LHD test period and Webex training (February 1-14), statewide deployment (February 17). I-NEDSS is designed to facilitate the electronic transfer of appropriate information from clinical information systems in the health care industry to public health departments, reduce provider burden in the provision of information, and enhance both the timeliness and quality of information provided. I-NEDSS will revolutionize public health by gathering and analyzing information quickly and accurately to improve the nation's ability to identify and track emerging infectious diseases and potential bioterrorism attacks as well as to investigate outbreaks and monitor disease trends.
- IDPH continues to regularly meet with representatives from the Chicago office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with local officials from the City of Chicago, to refine existing protocols for collecting specimens. One of the issues being explored by the group is the use of swabs instead of shipping of large containers to the State laboratories for analysis of suspected biological agents. The group will continue to meet on a monthly basis in Chicago.
- The Health Alert Network Portal (www.idphnet.com) system went online in October. Since that time, all 94 local health departments have been converted to the new system. The IDPH portal system enables local health departments to securely access Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, health alerts, and other information from any Internet accessible computer.
- The Illinois Department of Public Health and University of Illinois School of Public Health participated on a panel with other Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness to discuss general bioterrorism training issues faced by Illinois,

expectations for addressing Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Focus Area G grant issues, and how to work with academic partners. The panel is part of the American Public Health Association's annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

- The American Red Cross has developed a new video "Presenting Facing Fear". The video promotes the use of the "Presenting Fear: Helping Young People Deal with Terrorism and Tragic Events" curriculum. The video describes what is in the curriculum and how to use it and features educators using the curriculum in a classroom setting. The video is designed for educators and Red Cross staff so they will have a better understanding on how to use the "Facing Fear" curriculum. Copies of the video are available through local Red Cross chapters.
- The American Red Cross has added a Mobile Mass Care Kitchen to its disaster fleet based in Illinois. The kitchen is a self-contained 53-foot trailer designed to produce up to 10,000 hot meals daily within heavily impacted disaster areas. The unit can function in a stand-alone mode or be connected to working community water and electrical systems.
- The Red Cross issued planning guidance and instructions to units worldwide on refining Continuity of Operations Plans for use in emergency situations. The planning guidance provided an outline for the plan format as well as specifications for critical operations.
- The American Red Cross National Headquarters has developed a contingency plan for possible military action in Iraq. Should it become necessary, the Red Cross response to military action in Iraq will be a three-pronged effort that can be described as: 1) the mobilization and deployment of Red Cross workers into the area of conflict; 2) local Red Cross outreach to members of the National Guard/Reserves and their families, and 3) linking military personnel to their families back home through an emergency communications network.
- The Red Cross Biomedical Services is preparing for the need of blood and blood products should it be necessary. The memorandum of understanding with the

Department of Defense outlining how these essential materials will be provided to the military is in the process of being updated with the Armed Forces Blood Program.

- In coordination with its Red Cross Movement partners and under the leadership of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Services is preparing a response for the humanitarian needs that would likely occur as a result of conflict.
- The Red Cross, Illinois Department of Corrections, and Illinois State Board of Education (acting as agent for the USDA Commodity Foods Program) met to discuss procedures to implement emergency feeding plans following a catastrophic disaster. The Department of Natural Resources provided the Red Cross with a list of state sites that could be used for sheltering/mass care in the event of a major disaster.
- The ARC met with the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) on refining plans in the event the mass care annex of the Emergency Operations Plan needs to be activated. Current plans provide that the IDOC could prepare up to 250,000 meals in its facilities for disaster victims and emergency workers, provide laundry services for long-term shelter residents, and provide trained shelter managers for mass care facilities. ARC and IDOC will continue to meet to work on implementing procedures for the plan. ARC has agreed to provide training to key IDOC staff in mass care and shelter management as a part of this plan.
- The Central Illinois Chapter of the American Red Cross was awarded a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services to help establish a medical reserve corps unit. The Central Illinois Chapter and the Heart of America Blood Region are both located on the same campus in Peoria and employ approximately 250 people and have more than 1,000 volunteers.
- The ARC conducted a disaster readiness assessment of the capabilities and readiness of each Illinois chapter. The purpose of the assessment is to enable Red Cross chapters, state Red Cross units, and national ARC headquarters to better utilize program resources and funding to assist chapters in improving readiness for disasters or acts of terrorism.

- The ARC is working with the Illinois Commerce Commission to print Homeland Security Education materials in each Illinois phone book.
- More than 40 ARC staff and volunteers participated in a table top WMD/T exercise held at the United Airlines World Headquarters Training facility in Chicago to review current ARC plans and how they interface with government agencies plans. The exercise was also designed to assess any shortfalls in staffing or service delivery following a multi location terrorist event.
- The Public Information Committee of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force developed the first draft of a strategic plan for communicating with the public before, during and immediately following an act of terrorism.